



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/611,178	07/06/2000	Jack H. Chang	UNI-001	5599

7590 04/10/2007
David B Ritchie
D'Alessandro & Ritchie
P O Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640

EXAMINER

HASHEM, LISA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2614

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	04/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/611,178	Applicant(s) CHANG, JACK H.	
	Examiner Lisa Hashem	Art Unit 2614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25-84 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 25-84 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

FINAL DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 1-3-07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Newly amended claims 1-8 and 25-84 are still rejected by Skladman in view of Rigaldies. Rigaldies clearly discloses the newly added limitations, wherein Rigaldies clearly discloses the status of all messages including changes of all messages within the master message mailbox or voice-mail server is synchronized or reported immediately to the slave message mailbox or workstation mailbox (col. 3, lines 38-56). Changes are not reported when the workstation is offline (col. 9, lines 28-45). Further all the claims are rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as noted below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1-8 and 25-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The subject matter recited in all the independent claims '...changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are associated with a corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox are reported immediately to said corporate

Art Unit: 2614

communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache, and changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are not associated with said corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are not reported to the corporate communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache...' is not disclosed in the disclosure of the instant application.

On page 20, lines 17-21 of the instant application, the following is disclosed: '... Also, it is presently contemplated that one communication platform within the group of system communication platforms (i.e., SCPs 122a - 122n) is designated as the Master Communication Platform ("MCP") for maintaining a global subscriber database. Each time there is a change to the global subscriber database, the master communication platform updates the subscriber databases in every SCP on the network, reflecting the changes to the global subscriber database...'. The global subscriber database mentioned in the disclosure refers to a database that includes the names or identities of the subscribers of the unified messaging network and does not relate to messages stored for subscribers in a network mailbox.

Page 31, lines 9-20 of the instant application discloses '...FIG. 6 is a flow chart of the steps taken to upload messages from a corporate communication platform (CCP) according to one embodiment of the present invention. At step 610, a timer (e.g., 60 seconds) is continuously running on the CCP. At the end of each predetermined time interval, a decision is made at step 620 depending on whether any new messages were completely received by the CCP during the previous predetermined interval. If not, the process loops back to step 610. However, if any new messages were completely received during the previous predetermined interval, then the process continues with step 630, at which point all such completely received messages are uploaded to

Art Unit: 2614

the assigned SCP from the CCP. After step 630, the process loops back to step 610. Those of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that many other mechanisms for uploading messages can be implemented within the scope of the present invention. For example, a message may be uploaded as soon as it is completely received, or messages could be uploaded only when a predetermined minimum number of messages have been received by a CCP...'. This indicates that receiving any new messages in a master message mailbox is reported immediately to a slave message mailbox, but there is no indication of changing all messages located on the master message mailbox and its effect on an associated slave message mailbox.

One of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to correlate the changes made to all the messages located in the master message mailbox to changes made to the global subscriber database. Appropriate action is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-8 and 25-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,487,278 by Skladman et al, hereinafter Skladman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,792,085 by Rigaldies et al, hereinafter Rigaldies:

Regarding claim 1, Skladman discloses a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a wide-area network (see Abstract; Figs. 1a and 1b), comprising: one or more corporate communication platforms or enterprise system that provides services to users

Art Unit: 2614

within a predetermined enterprise, such as a business or government organization (Fig. 1b, 22) coupled to a switched backbone or Internet (Fig. 1, 56) via a router (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 6-7), integrated with a PBX or LDS (Fig. 1a, 48) via a PBX interface or PSTN (Fig. 1a, 62) (col. 3, lines 5-47), and comprising a slave message mailbox cache or voice-mail server (Fig. 1a, 50); and a plurality of system communication platforms or disparate messaging systems inherently coupled to said switched backbone (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 21-34), wherein one such system communication platform or unified messaging center (Fig. 1a, 26) comprises a master message mailbox or unified message server (Fig. 1a, 64), wherein said slave message mailbox cache is synchronized with said master message mailbox (col. 4, line 9 – col. 5, line 6); each of said one or more corporate platforms assigned to one of said plurality of system communication platforms and each of said plurality of system communication platforms assigned to zero or more of said one or more corporate communication platforms (col. 3, lines 15-19; col. 6, lines 21-34).

Skladman does not disclose said slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox.

Rigaldies discloses a system for providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services on a local-area network (see Abstract; Fig. 1), comprising:
a communication platform (Fig. 1, 10) coupled to a switched backbone (LAN) integrated with a PBX (Fig. 1, 400) via a PBX interface or PSTN (Fig. 1, 420), and comprising a slave message mailbox cache or workstation mailbox (Fig. 1, 150); and
the platform comprises a master message mailbox or voice-mail server (Fig. 1, 200), wherein said slave message mailbox cache (Fig. 1, 150) is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time (col.

Art Unit: 2614

12, lines 14-27; col. 20, lines 19-33) with said master message mailbox such that all changes to said slave message mailbox are reported immediately to said one such system communication platform, changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are associated with are reported immediately to the communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache (col. 3, lines 38-56),

and changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are not associated with said communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are not reported to the communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache (col. 9, lines 28-36) (col. 7, lines 30-63; col. 8, line 61 – col. 9, line 1; col. 9, lines 16-27; col. 10, lines 26-45; col. 11, lines 19-32; col. 12, lines 14-27; col. 14, lines 50-57; col. 15, line 59 – col. 16, line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Skladman to include said slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox as taught by Rigaldies. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a unified messaging system comprising a slave message mailbox cache that receives messages from the master message mailbox instantly and the messages in the master message mailbox are also replicated in the slave message mailbox cache in order for a user to only check one corresponding mailbox of an individual user. The slave message mailbox cache is also local to the user and easily accessible by the user. Further, to update the slave message mailbox cache when changes to all messages are reported and to prevent updates when changes should not be reported to enhance message synchronization.

Regarding claim 2, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said switched backbone is the Internet (col. 6, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 3, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said PBX interface is inherently managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a programming interface (Fig. 4, 120), wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX (col. 6, lines 29-34; col. 7, line 57 - col. 8, line 32).

Regarding claim 4, please see the rejection of the system in claim 3, to reject the system in claim 4.

Regarding claim 5, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate a message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache (col. 6, lines 20-34; col. 6, line 60 – col. 7, line 8; col. 11, line 57 – col. 12, line 15).

Regarding claims 6-8, please see the rejection of the system in claim 5, to reject the system in claims 6-8.

Regarding claims 25-32, please see the rejections of the system in claims 1-8, respectively, to reject the apparatus in claims 25-32.

Regarding claim 33, Skladman discloses a method of providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services to one or more individual subscribers associated with a corporate subscriber (business or government organization) (see Abstract; Figs. 1a and 1b), comprising: integrating a corporate communication platform or enterprise system that provides services to users within a

Art Unit: 2614

predetermined enterprise, such as a business or government organization (Fig. 1b, 22) with said corporate subscriber's PBX system or LDS (Fig. 1a, 48) via a PBX interface or PSTN (Fig. 1a, 62) (col. 3, lines 5-47); coupling said corporate communication platform to a switched backbone or Internet (Fig. 1, 56) via a router (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 6-7) and inherently assigning a network identifier to said corporate communication platform (col. 4, lines 24-30; col. 8, lines 33-55); assigning said corporate communication platform to be serviced by a system communication platform accessible or unified messaging center (Fig. 1a, 26) via said switched backbone (col. 3, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 21-34), wherein said corporate communication platform comprises a slave message mailbox cache or voice-mail server (Fig. 1a, 50) synchronized with a master message mailbox or unified message server (Fig. 1a, 64) on said system communication platform; initializing a network mailbox on said system communication platform for each said individual subscribers; and transmitting copies of all messages received at said system communication platform that correspond to each of said individual subscribers to said corporate communication platform (col. 4, line 9 – col. 5, line 6; col. 6, lines 21-34; col. 8, line 33 – col. 9, line 9); said corporate communication platform assigned to one of a plurality of system communication platforms and said system communication platform assigned to zero or more corporate communication platforms (col. 3, lines 15-19; col. 6, lines 21-34).

Skladman does not disclose a slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox.

Rigaldies discloses a method of providing PBX-integrated unified messaging services to one or more individual subscribers (Abstract; Fig. 1), comprising:

Art Unit: 2614

integrating a communication platform (Fig. 1, 10) with a subscriber's PBX system (Fig. 1, 400) via a PBX interface (Fig. 1, 420);

coupling said communication platform to a switched backbone (LAN);

said communication platform comprises a slave message mailbox cache (Fig. 1, 150) bi-directionally synchronized in real-time (col. 12, lines 14-27; col. 20, lines 19-33) with a master message mailbox or voice-mail server (Fig. 1, 200); and

transmitting copies of all messages received at said master message mailbox that correspond to each of said individual subscribers to said slave message mailbox cache such that all changes to said slave message mailbox are reported immediately to said one such system communication platform, changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are associated with said communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are reported immediately to the communication platform (col. 3, lines 38-56), and changes to all messages in said master message mailbox that are not associated with said communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache are not reported to said communication platform comprising said slave message mailbox cache (col. 9, lines 28-36) (col. 7, lines 30-63; col. 8, line 61 – col. 9, line 1; col. 9, lines 16-27; col. 10, lines 26-45; col. 11, lines 19-32; col. 12, lines 14-27; col. 14, lines 50-57; col. 15, line 59 – col. 16, line 6).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Skladman to include a slave message mailbox cache is bi-directionally synchronized in real-time with said master message mailbox as taught by Rigaldies. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been lead to make such a modification to provide a unified messaging service comprising a slave message mailbox cache that receives messages

Art Unit: 2614

from the master message mailbox instantly and the messages in the master message mailbox are also replicated in the slave message mailbox cache in order for a user to only check one corresponding mailbox of an individual user. The slave message mailbox cache is also local to the user and easily accessible by the user. Further, to update the slave message mailbox cache when changes to all messages are reported and to prevent updates when changes should not be reported to enhance message synchronization.

Regarding claim 34, the method of claim 33, wherein Skladman further discloses said switched backbone is the Internet (col. 6, lines 6-7).

Regarding claim 35, the method of claim 33, wherein Skladman further discloses said PBX interface is inherently managed and controlled through program control, said program control established by using modules that make API calls to a program interface (Fig. 4, 120), wherein said corporate communication platform can deliver a message to and receive a message from extensions defined within said PBX (col. 6, lines 29-34; col. 7, line 57 - col. 8, line 32).

Regarding claim 36, please see the rejection of the method in claim 35, to reject the method in claim 36.

Regarding claim 37, the method of claim 33, wherein Skladman further discloses said corporate communication platform can command said PBX to activate a message waiting light on a PBX user's voice terminal equipment when a message for said PBX user is transmitted from said master message mailbox to said slave mailbox cache (col. 6, lines 20-34; col. 6, line 60 – col. 7, line 8; col. 11, line 57 – col. 12, line 15).

Regarding claims 38-40, please see the rejection of the method in claim 37, to reject the method in claims 38-40.

Regarding claim 41, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging (col. 3, lines 14-16; col. 3, lines 31-35; col. 6, lines 35-59; see Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 42, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging and fax messaging (col. 3, lines 14-16; col. 3, lines 31-35; col. 6, lines 35-59; see Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 43, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging and e-mail messaging (col. 3, lines 14-16; col. 3, lines 31-35; col. 6, lines 35-59; see Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 44, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes voice messaging, fax messaging, and e-mail messaging (col. 3, lines 14-16; col. 3, lines 31-35; col. 6, lines 35-59; see Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 45, the system of claim 1, wherein Skladman further discloses said unified messaging includes fax messaging and e-mail messaging (col. 6, lines 35-59; see Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 46, the system of claim 2, wherein Skladman further discloses said PBX is inherently selected from a group consisting of analog PBXs, digital PBXs, Centrex PBXs and Internet Protocol ("IP") PBXs (col. 3, lines 31-47).

Regarding claims 47-69, please see the rejection to claim 46 above, to reject claims 47-69.

Regarding claims 70-77 and 78-84, please see rejections to claims (system: 1-8 and 46-52, apparatus: 25-32 and 54-60, method 33-40 and 62-68) above, respectively, to reject the apparatus in claims 70-77 and 78-84.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 Form

8. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or call:

(571) 272-2600 (for customer service assistance)

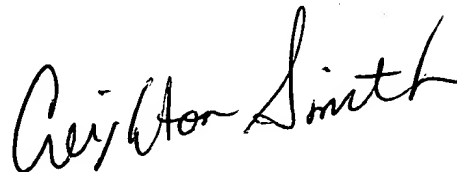
Art Unit: 2614

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Hashem whose telephone number is (571) 272-7542. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (571) 272-7547. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lh
March 28, 2007



CREIGHTON SMITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER